

Tempe City Hall Bicycle Locker Public Art Project Fact Sheet



City of Tempe
Cultural Services
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Photo: Craig Smith

Title: Bicycle Locker

Location: City Hall, just east of Mill Avenue, between 5th and 6th streets.

Artist: Rose Johnson

Completion: 1997

Medium: Brushed aluminum, painted steel, sign painters' lettering enamels

Description: Johnson's locker consists of two 90-inch by 48-inch sides made of brushed aluminum. The other two sides are composed of steel and are 39 inches by 48 inches. The top surface is 90 inches by 39 inches. Oil-based enamel paints were used to reflect the dichotomous nature of the physical environment of Tempe. The two larger upright sides depict a cityscape on one side and a desertscape on the opposing side. The two small vertical surfaces display houses that express a connection between city and desert. The top surface represents the space where all things meet: the sky.

Funding: The project was funded through city of Tempe Capital Improvement Project Percent for Art funds made available through the Tempe Transit tax.

Artist biography: Rose Johnson received a BA Honors Degree in Graphic Design/Illustration from Leicester Polytechnic, England, UK in 1983. Since then she has worked extensively as a Painter/Muralist, Illustrator, Installation & Performance Artist and as a Community Artist. In 1986 she moved to Phoenix and has exhibited extensively in Tucson, Phoenix and Tempe. Her murals include a 1995 grant from the city of Tempe and Tempe Municipal Arts Commission to create a large public mural. As an illustrator she has been published in *Arizona Highways* magazine and the *New Times* in Phoenix. Her installation and performance art includes the participation in the project *Alternatives/Alternatives*, an international exchange with X Teresa in Mexico City. As a community artist she spent two years as an Artist-in-Residence at the former Tempe Art Center.

Artist statement: My design reflects the enjoyment of riding a bicycle both within the city and out in the desert. There are a couple of cars and an aeroplane [sic], all trailing clouds of smoke as a cautionary reminder of the pollution resulting from forms of transportation other than bicycles. In this way the bicycles in the design take on a superior position in their pureness. It will be very brightly painted and will glow like a jewel in the sand.